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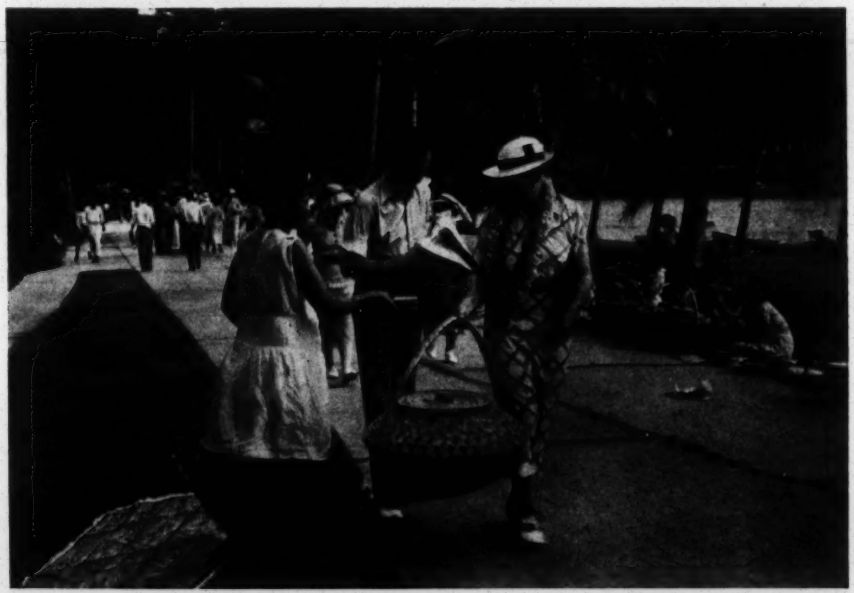

Photograph by R. S. Strout

SAMOAN SKILLS MAKE SOUVENIR HUNTING A FAVORITE SPORT OF TRAVELERS

In American Samoa, where there are no factories, handicrafts rule supreme. In some years the value of curios sold to tourists or exported amounts to more than half the income from copra, the island's chief product. Necklaces of shells, hand-woven fans and baskets and hats, wooden bowls, and carved wooden war clubs are among the trophies offered for sale. The spacious urn-like baskets were designed for storing Samoan food and not for convenient packing in steamer trunks. Travelers find it easier to stow away a piece of tapa cloth (left foreground), made from mulberry bark. The palm trees, as well as the flower leis around the visitor's neck, indicate the tropical climate of the Samoan Islands, 13 to 15 degrees south of the Equator, and except for parts of Antarctica the only territory claimed by the United States in the Southern Hemisphere (Bulletin No. 5).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Turkey-in-Europe Gives Ankara Vital Stake in Balkan Events

ONLY 3 per cent of Turkey's area lies in Europe, across the Dardanelles and Bosporus Straits from the country's vast Asiatic reaches. But that small percentage of Turkish land involves the nation in the turbulent affairs of the Balkans, exposes the fate of the Turk to the three-cornered pressure battle of British, Russian, and German demands.

Turkey-in-Europe, covering 9,257 square miles, is not so large as the State of New Hampshire. Yet this strategic area gives Turkey two of her six foreign neighbors, by its common frontiers with Bulgaria and Greece. It contains the nation's largest city, Istanbul (Constantinople), and also another of the former historic Turkish capitals, Adrianople (now Edirne). It controls one of the Old World's most important waterways, the route through the Straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosporus, and holds the only railway link between Europe and Asia south of the U.S.S.R., a brief but vital stretch of the railroad to Baghdad.

Was Pivot on Which History Turned

This southeasternmost corner of Europe, a part of Thrace, has been several times the pivot on which history turned. A victory of the Goths there in 378 A.D. drove the legions of the Roman Empire permanently out of the plains south of the Danube. A victory of the Turks there in 1361 gave them the historic city of Adrianople, which served as their capital for nearly a century, until they captured Constantinople in 1453 and overthrew the Byzantine Empire. A Russian victory there in 1829 broke Turkish power in the Balkans and gave independence to Greece.

The unsuccessful British campaign during the World War for Gallipoli—Turkey-in-Europe's southernmost extension in a peninsula that dominates the entrance to the Dardanelles Strait—resulted in a dramatic night retreat when the Turks, unknown to their enemies, were practically at the end of their resistance.

Turkey's strategic fragment of Europe, now fortified and garrisoned, has been called an important hazard to any overland push to the east that Axis forces may wish to make. Military experts pronounce it suited to strong defense, with short frontiers bulwarked in every direction by formidable barriers.

Where Sultans Ruled Behind Mountain Walls

Its population is about 1,433,400. In addition to Turks, there are Greeks, Bulgars, and Italians, British, Russians, Albanians, and Yugoslavs. More than half of the people live in Istanbul, which has a majority of its 884,500 population on the European side of the Bosporus (illustration, inside cover).

This historic capital of the Turkish Empire, the seat of Ottoman sultans, stands in a vital and well protected location. The heavily guarded Straits of the Bosporus and the Dardanelles protect it from approach by sea, while behind it is a wall of mountains, which lend themselves readily to defensive measures.

A 145-mile section of the old intercontinental road through Istanbul, over which camel caravans once brought silks and spices from the East, is now the principal highway across European Turkey, from Istanbul to Edirne. This is 50 miles shorter than the railroad, which from Edirne proceeds to Sofiya and Beograd.

The region comprises four vilayets, or provinces, named for Istanbul and the other largest towns—Edirne (82,500), Kirklareli (69,300), and Tekirdag (44,700).

Edirne is the second largest city in European Turkey. Surrounded by low fortified hills, it was long headquarters of a Turkish Army corps. North and east rise the Istranca Mountains, an almost inaccessible granite wall that extends from

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Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

ISTANBUL OVERLOOKS THE INTERSECTION OF TWO OUTSTANDING TRAVEL ROUTES, THE INTEROCEAN AND THE INTERCONTINENTAL

The Galata Bridge carries land traffic over the Golden Horn between sections of Istanbul on the European side of the Bosporus Strait, a strategic ferrying place since the early days of carrying Asia's silk and spices to European markets by slow-moving caravan. The Bosporus is the northeastern section of a threefold waterway, continued westward through the Sea of Marmara and the Strait of the Dardanelles, which is the only outlet between the landlocked Black Sea and the Aegean. Istanbul's oriental skyline is pierced by the minarets and domes of mosques, and the Fire Tower (right), from which firemen kept watch for trouble (Bulletin No. 1).

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Surrounded Yugoslavia a Victim of Geographic Position

THE largest of the Balkan nations, Yugoslavia has boundaries in common with seven countries. Germany now abuts this Balkan kingdom along the former Austrian frontier. Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria, aligned clockwise on Yugoslavia's eastern front, have acceded in varying degrees to German demands for cooperation with the Axis. Stretching for several hundred miles along the east coast of the Adriatic Sea, across from Italy, Yugoslavia extends northward to form a boundary of 130 miles with Germany's Axis partner, Italy, and southward to a border with Italian-dominated north Albania for 275 miles. The southernmost end of the kingdom touches embattled Greece. When German demands were urged against Yugoslavia, thus encircled, a compromise appeared inevitable.

The largest of the Balkans is the size of the State of Oregon, but its population of 14,000,000 is greater than that of a dozen Oregons. It is not, however, as densely populated as most European countries.

Capital Straddles the Danube

Its size and its relative freedom from population pressure give it a wealth of foodstuffs, and the earth yields additional riches in war minerals.

The Bor mines of Yugoslavia are Europe's great source of copper, and the country taps other mineral wealth in coal, iron, lead, zinc, chrome, antimony, bauxite for aluminum, limestone for cement, and some gold.

Yet the kingdom is largely an agricultural country. More than 58 per cent of the total area is under cultivation, about four-fifths in grains. Yugoslavia exports large quantities of wheat and corn, as well as timber and meat products, hogs and cattle. The United States has taken as much as 10 per cent of the country's exports. Nearly a third of the land is in forests.

There are only twenty urban centers of more than 20,000 people, and but three over 100,000. Beograd (Belgrade), the capital, leads with a population of 350,000, spreading on both sides of the Danube.

Strategic Situation Brought Early Settlement

Strategically situated at the junction of the Danube and Sava Rivers, Beograd's key position to the Balkan Peninsula brought about its settlement early in history. Even in prehistoric times, Illyrians, Celts, and Romans occupied the site. Later it was taken and retaken by Huns, Bulgars, and other conquering peoples. For three centuries it was Turkish. It became the capital of Serbia only in the past century, and of Yugoslavia—an enlarged kingdom built around Serbia—in 1918.

In addition to its Danube shipping route, Beograd has rail connections with all parts of Yugoslavia, and handles most of the country's foreign trade.

The former simplicity of the capital survives within its present modernity on market days, when the farm women invade the capital in their rainbow-hued dresses, with toe-tilted sandals and coin-dangling headdress. Their ox-carts now entangle motor traffic, buses, and taxicabs, increasing the noise from the clang of street cars and the honking of automobiles. Wide streets have replaced narrow thoroughfares, and asphalt smoothness has resurfaced cobbled streets.

The coast of Yugoslavia is high and rocky, with ranges of the Julian and Dinaric Alps in the background. Since this barren region is lacking in resources, it is sparsely settled. Along the Dalmatian coast are numerous islands, shoals, and rocks which make navigation difficult, particularly in bad weather. But one advan-

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Bulgaria across northern Turkey-in-Europe, gradually dropping from a height of 3,400 feet to the steep, harborless coast of the Black Sea. Through this granite mass, winding through a deep and rocky defile, flows the Rezvaya River; the northern boundary runs in a generally western direction from its mouth.

From the north, the Tundzha River flows to Edirne through another ravine, to join the Meriç (Maritsa) River. The Tundzha marks part of the Bulgarian border.

Traffic between Sofiya and Edirne flows beside the west-east portion of the Meriç, which turns south near Edirne to outline the boundary between Greece and Turkey. It forms a broad valley, often flooded, with marshlands along the western bank. This sluggish stream is seven to ten feet deep and carries only boats of shallow draught to Edirne. The slow current and the flatness of the land favor the small sailboats specially built for the river. At the mouth of the Meriç is the Turkish town of Enez (Enos), originally a Greek colony, 90 miles below Edirne. Enez was shelled by British warships during the World War.

Practically the whole of the Aegean seacoast of Turkey-in-Europe is on the Gulf of Xeros (Saros), bounded by the mainland and the Gallipoli Peninsula, which is steep and inaccessible throughout. The gulf is bounded by mountainous land on both sides, with a low shore at the head where it receives the Kavak River.

Note: Additional information about Turkey-in-Europe will be found in "Transformation of Turkey," *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1939; "Looking in on New Turkey," April, 1932; "Summer Holidays on the Bosporus," October, 1929; "Turkey Goes to School," January, 1929; and "Seeing 3,000 Years of History in Four Hours," December, 1928.

See also the Map of Europe and the Near East, available at 50¢ (paper) and 75¢ (linen).

And in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Thrace, the Birthplace of Mars, Now Turkey's 'Steel Fortress'," February 10, 1941; "Turkey, Land Bridge from Europe to Near East Oil," November 25, 1940; "Dardanelles and Bosporus, Held by Turks, Long Coveted by Others," November 18, 1940; and "Will the Dardanelles, Back Door to Europe, Open or Close?" April 22, 1940.

Bulletin No. 1, March 24, 1941.

Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

THROUGH TURKEY-IN-EUROPE, TURKS DOUBLED BACK ON A FUTURE CAPITAL

The Byzantine Empire of the Middle Ages, with its capital at the famous city which has been called Byzantium, Constantinople, and Istanbul, was rich enough to lure the Turks. They approached slowly, first seizing Adrianople to the northwest to be their capital for 92 years before they finally captured Constantinople. To besiege the latter city, Mohammed the Conqueror employed 5,000 workmen for four hectic months in 1452 to build this fortress of Rumeli Hissar, on the European shore of the Bosporus Strait, where he could intimidate shipping. The walls of the castle, winding to outline the initial letter of Mohammed's name, have a battlemented tower at every bend. A modern steamer passes the ancient fortress, traveling the strategic Straits waterway which enriched the Byzantine and Turkish Empires.

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Chad, French Lakeside Colony of the Congo

NORTH of the dish-lipped Ubangi people, south of the bleak volcanic massif of Tibesti rising in mid-Sahara, east of marshy Lake Chad, the colony of Chad (Tchad) is thinly populated and difficult to cross. But this section of the French Empire, now adhering to the Free French forces, has mustered strength to strike a telling blow across desert spaces against its Italian next-door neighbor to the north, Libia. Free French troops toiling northward from Chad in February besieged the important Libian cluster of oases of Cufra, and, in March, announced their capture.

A huge block of land in the heart of north-central Africa, Chad occupies the northernmost stretch of French Equatorial Africa as it presses against the southeast frontier of Libia. This region was reported occupied by the followers of General de Gaulle last December.

Link Between Early French Empires in Africa

To the east lies the broad expanse of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. On the west is French West Africa, still pledged to the home government.

Because of its central location, the district of Chad has long been a strategic piece in the international jigsaw geography of colonial Africa. In the early days of French colonial expansion toward the interior, military leaders found this region a convenient hyphen between the vaster empires of the Sudan and the Congo. It was at Lake Chad, in the southwest corner of the present colony, that the conflicting ambitions of British, French, and German authorities met during the last quarter of the 1800's. In time, the French and British Governments agreed on respective spheres of influence. After the World War, with the loss of her African colonies, Germany disappeared altogether from the international picture in this part of the world.

A relative newcomer in the field adjacent to Chad is Italy, which, under the 1935 Pact of Rome, received from France the 50,000-square-mile area of Tibesti, together with other territory along the southern border of the Italian colony of Libia. This region—a wild mountain-and-desert land which is home to a small but independent population of knife-wielding Negroes—was reported reoccupied by French troops in the spring of 1939, following Italian repudiation of the four-year-old agreement.

Land of Mountains and Basins, Desert and Marsh

The colony of Chad has an area estimated to be anywhere from 400,000 to half a million square miles. It presents an extraordinarily varied terrain, made up of mountain, plateau, and basin, desert, and marsh.

In the Tibesti region is the highest peak of the Sahara, the 11,201-foot Emi Koussi volcano. In the southwest, in the Lake Chad basin, are found deep depressions in desert sand, ranging from a few hundred feet to three or four miles in length, usually oval or circular in shape. The floor is smooth and almost level, with a heavy black soil peculiar to the Sudan, which, during the dry season, cracks into sections with fissures several inches across.

These fertile areas are excellent for cotton, forage grasses, tobacco, vegetables, and other crops. When not under cultivation they are covered with grass, palms, and papaw trees. Water is often just below the surface frequently with a small pond or lake in the lowest areas.

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tage is the number of sheltered inlets and bays which this rugged coast affords. The Gulf of Kotor extends inward for 30 miles, with peaks rising almost 6,000 feet from the ocean floor, to the town of Kotor (Cattaro), main naval base and site of the naval engineering college.

Dubrovnik is a 2,500-year-old port, whose old title, Ragusa, was the origin of the name of the full-sailed galleons known as "argosies." This walled city on a rocky promontory was for centuries an independent city-republic, whose merchants virtually monopolized Mediterranean shipping, acquiring wealth to purchase the paintings and sculpture of Titian, Tintoretto, and other Renaissance artists.

In the southeast, Yugoslavia is a mixture of hills and small plains. It is to the northeast that the country flattens out into the productive Danubian Plains, drained by the Sava, Drina, and the Danube (Dunav) Rivers.

Yugoslavia is a synthetic state, born of the first World War and first christened the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. It was made up principally of Serbia, Montenegro, and parts of Austria and Hungary.

Note: See also "Kaleidoscopic Land of Europe's Youngest King," *National Geographic Magazine*, June, 1939; "Jugoslavia—Ten Years After," September, 1930; and "Dalmatian Days," January, 1928. And in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLLETINS: "Yugoslavia, An Amalgam of Nations and Peoples," October 28, 1940; "Croatia: Yugoslavian Hinge of Balkan Politics," April 15, 1940; "Belgrade, Where Balkan Leaders Sought Continued Peace," February 19, 1940; and "Yugoslavia Is Best Known, Least Understood of Balkans," May 8, 1939.

Yugoslavia's "encircled" position in Europe is apparent from the Map of Europe and the Near East, priced at 50¢ (paper) and 75¢ (linen). Note also the maps on pp. 694-695 of the June, 1939, *Geographic*.

Bulletin No. 2, March 24, 1941.

© *Relang from Three Lions*

YUGOSLAVIA'S LOFTY LAKE IS NOTABLE FOR FISHING AND FRONTIERS

High in the knotted ranges of mountains where Yugoslavia, Albania, and Greece come together, Lake Ohrid (or Ohridsko Jezero) is the origin of the winding Drin River, 1,800 feet above sea level. Of the two Yugoslavian towns on the lake shores, Struga and Ohrid, the latter is the more important, a terminus for the railroad down to Skoplje. The fishermen at Ohrid, who dry their nets in front of lakeside homes at the foot of encircling mountains (visible in background), find that fish are becoming less plentiful than in their fathers' time. The frontier of Greece lies only a little south of Lake Ohrid, and Greek forces soon reached its Albanian shore in their counterattack against Italian invaders.

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Spring Brings Battles Almost Yearly

THE official beginning of spring on March 20 had ominous associations for students of history. The poets who sing of Nature's happy springtime and the historians who have been setting down the world's troubles more often than not have been "working opposite sides of the page" of the same story.

In the past eight years, with the exception of 1934 and 1937, every spring has ushered in some phase of national or international conflict. Starting with what seemed in 1933 to be purely local developments, this period shows a gradually widening geographic scope of world disturbances. The potential trouble area in which this spring's crop of catastrophes is ripening stretches from Great Britain south into Africa, from Spain through the Balkan countries to East Asia.

Year	*Month*	*Place*	*Event*
1933	March	Germany	Retiring Reichstag hands dictatorial powers to Hitler.
	March	Inner Mongolia	Japanese capture Jehol City.
	May	South America	Paraguay declares war on Bolivia.
1935	March	Germany	Return to universal conscription in defiance of Versailles Treaty.
	April	South America	Paraguayans invade Bolivia; Bolivians launch counterattack.
	May	North China	Japanese troops push south, destroying small Chinese army.
1936	March	Germany	German troops reoccupy demilitarized Rhineland Zone, repudiating Locarno Pact.
1938	March	Austria	Germany annexes Austria.
1939	March	Czecho-Slovakia	Germans occupy Bohemia and Moravia. Hungarian troops invade Carpatho-Ukraine.
	March	Lithuania	Germans take over Memelland from Lithuania.
	April	Albania	Italians invade country.
	May	Outer Mongolia	Border warfare between Soviet and Japanese-Manchukuoan forces.
1940	April	Denmark	Germans invade country, with almost no opposition.
	April	Norway	Germans occupy Norwegian ports, as several attacking ships are sunk.
	May	Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg	Germans strike westward and begin drive into France.

In American history, practically every major conflict began in April, including the American Revolution, the War with Mexico, the War between the States, and the Spanish-American War. Although the World War started in Europe in August, the United States entered it later in April.

It is not in the stars that historians look to find the reason for this mysterious pattern of recurring trouble in spring. The explanation they offer is both simple

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The shoreline of Lake Chad is concealed by deep fringes of water plants, some growing six feet high. The lake itself, which is believed to be gradually drying up as a result of the Sahara sand drift, is a labyrinth of swampy little islands and narrow winding channels, inhabited by a curious people called the Buduma, mostly Mohammedans. They lead an isolated life, chiefly fishing and snaring waterfowl, cranes, and storks.

Wadai People Once Menace to Travelers

On the east, the colony includes Wadai, once a dangerous section for travelers. With French forts and native troops policing the area, however, the Wadaian has settled into a humdrum existence, tending his crops and herds. His home is built of grass, millet stalks, or clay. He sleeps on grass mats, and eats his curds or his porridge of millet out of a calabash bowl.

Chad is the least settled colony of French Equatorial Africa. Some estimates set its population at less than a million. Such scarcity of human habitation, with consequent lack of communications, has not only hampered economic development of the colony hitherto, but adds to the difficulties of any transport across it now desired in connection with military operations.

Note: See also "Three-Wheeling Through Africa," *National Geographic Magazine*, January, 1934; and "Through the Deserts and Jungles of Africa by Motor," June, 1926.

Lake Chad and the Chad colony of French Equatorial Africa may be located on The Society's Map of Africa, priced at 50¢ (paper) and 75¢ (linen).

Bulletin No. 3, March 24, 1941.

Photograph by Walter Mittelholzer

PORTABLE VILLAGES DOT THE SHADY GRASS BETWEEN DESERT AND LAKE

The Sahara on the north, in drought years, moves a little closer to the endless lush marshes of Lake Chad, drying out the thinly settled transition zone of rolling grasslands between them. The lake's shoreline has receded several miles in the past century. In this roadless region there are only caravan trails (upper right). Villages of shepherds appear in the grasslands wherever there is a well, but because of the uncertainty of the water supply many of the little settlements are only semi-permanent. A house is a flimsy airy structure of grass roof and walls of grass matting or hides, easily taken apart and carried to a preferred location, or abandoned without much loss. Furnishings are limited to sleeping mats, cooking utensils, a mortar for grinding grain by hand, and skin water containers.

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New U.S. Defense Bases: Samoa Takes U.S. South of the Equator

WHILE establishing the new Atlantic defense bases and strengthening American strongholds already set up in the Pacific, the United States Congress has allotted funds for an air base at the naval base on the Samoan island, Tutuila. The U. S. naval station there is situated on the landlocked, hill-cupped harbor of Pago Pago, considered the finest anchorage in the southern Pacific islands and celebrated also for its languorous rain-drenched tropical beauty.

The Samoan island cluster ruled by the United States lies just east of the International Date Line, 13 degrees south of the Equator, and some 4,150 nautical miles southwest of San Francisco on the Great Circle route to New Zealand.

German Colony Formerly Next Door

Until 1914, the United States shared the Samoan Islands with Germany, but since then the German colony to the west has been mandated to New Zealand.

The seven sister islands of American Samoa together aggregate little more than 60 square miles in area. Yet they give the United States a strategic foothold near the sea and air routes of the South Pacific.

Navigators Islands was the name applied to them by the French explorer Bougainville in 1768, perhaps in tribute to the natives' skill at canoeing. The United States exploring expedition under Wilkes in 1839 re-named them Samoa.

The United States first formally entered the race with Great Britain and Germany for control of Samoa when a U. S. Navy commander sailed his ship into the incomparable harbor of Pago Pago, in 1872, and on his own responsibility bargained with the Samoan king for exclusive American use of its shelter.

Rain-Making Peak Brings Showers to Pago Pago

After Robert Louis Stevenson, between masterpieces, had dabbled in Samoan politics, and Germany had declared war on Samoa, the harassed islands in 1899 were divided between Germany and the United States, the latter receiving that part of the group lying east of the 171st meridian of longitude west of Greenwich. The rule of native kings was abolished, and the governor thereafter was the commandant of the naval station, at first merely a coaling station, at Pago Pago.

Largest and westernmost of the American Samoan cluster, bigger than the others put together, is rugged green Tutuila, deeply gashed on the east by the hook-shaped naval harbor of Pago Pago, in the broken crater of an extinct volcano. Most of the 10,000 American Samoans live on Tutuila's 40 square miles. The sheltered naval station, supplied with generous daily showers by the "rain-making" peak of Mount Pioa, has a parade ground, radio station, a hospital, a power plant, a hotel, a water system, golf course and baseball diamond, modern waterfront facilities, and several radiating automobile roads. Small Aunuu Island lies near Tutuila.

The Manua threesome, 68 miles farther east, consists of the larger cone-shaped Tau Island, of possibly 14 square miles, and six miles away the smaller Olosega and Ofu, lying side by side like a pair of green butterfly wings.

Sixth member of the Samoan Island family is a mere half-sister, a bare, uninhabited coral atoll, contrasting sharply with the verdant fertile islands of volcanic origin. It lies 80 miles east of the rest, named Rose Island in 1820 for the first woman known to visit it, the wife of its French discoverer.

The seventh is the flat oval of Swain's Island, 210 miles northwest of the rest of the group, barren except for several hundred acres of coconut groves. It was an "island without a country" for 319 years after its discovery in 1606, when an en-

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and practical. Spring ushers in the time when winter snowstorms and thaws no longer impede transportation, and troops can be moved about more freely. Warmer weather frees armies from the necessity of providing themselves with substantial shelter, fuel, and heavy clothing. To move at the beginning of spring also gives the armies' operations a maximum period of favorable weather before autumn begins to hamper their movements.

Note: See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: (1933) "Mongolia, Western Frontier of Expanding Manchukuo," April 24, 1933; and "'Marathon War' Resumed in the Chaco," January 29, 1934; (1935) "Rhineland Again a Question Mark," April 8, 1935; (1936) "Arms and the Rhine," March 30, 1936; (1938) "Germany Plus Austria—Colossus of Central Europe," April 4, 1938; (1939) "Three Thumb-nail Portraits of the Late Czecho-Slovak States," and "Table of Data on the Former Czecho-Slovakia," April 3, 1939; "Memel, 'Lung' of Lithuania's Commerce, Goes German," April 17, 1939; "Albania Only Forty-Seven Miles from Italy," April 24, 1939; (1940) "Skagerrak and Kattegat: Embattled Channel Waters of Scandinavia," and "Tabular Picture of Scandinavia, War's Northern Front," and "Norway's Fjord-Gashed, Rock-Bound Coast," April 29, 1940; and "1940 Topples Kings and Governments in World-wide Upsets," January 20, 1941.

Bulletin No. 4, March 24, 1941.

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THE FIRST STEP OF THE GOOSE STEP IN ITS FORWARD MARCH TO WAR

Practically every spring from 1933 to 1939 has taken Germany a step closer to war. After the spring of 1933 brought Hitler to power, and 1935 saw the revival of universal conscription in the country to build up the army in spite of the Versailles Treaty agreements, 1936 saw the Nazi forces first dramatically on the move. The Rhineland, between France and Germany, where troops and fortifications had been forbidden by the Locarno Pact, was then occupied by German soldiers on March 7. Crossing the Rhine bridge at the city of Mainz, the smiling troops were greeted by the Nazi salute; they were the first armed Germans in the city since 1918.

thusiastic Spanish explorer called it "Island of the Beautiful People." After 1856 it was ruled by American "kings" descended from an American citizen who bought the island with gin from earlier comers; in 1925 the United States gathered it up.

While Polynesians on other islands are dying out, the native population of American Samoa increased by 50 per cent in the first 25 years of U. S. management. Their chief occupation is the gathering of copra, valued for the manufacture of glycerine (to be used in explosives), soap, and salad oil.

American foods, such as canned corned beef and canned salmon, augment the native diet of breadfruit, taro, yams, and fish speared from canoes by local fishermen. A favorite delicacy is the palolo, a sea worm, scooped out of the water in nets on the one night each year when it "swarms," eaten raw and wriggling.

The natives are skilled in handicrafts (illustrations, cover and below), but their traditional lavalava (or sarong) of handmade bark cloth is being replaced by western clothes. The Samoan bride's ambition is to wear a white satin gown and veil, although it is entirely acceptable for her to be barefooted.

Note: Additional photographs and descriptions of Samoa are found in "At Home on the Seas," *National Geographic Magazine*, July, 1939; "The 'Pilgrim' Sails the Seven Seas," August, 1937; and "Around the World in the 'Islander'," February, 1928.

Inset maps of the American Samoan islands appear on the Map of the Pacific Ocean, priced at 50¢ (paper) and 75¢ (linen). A folder describing this map will be sent upon request.

Bulletin No. 5, March 24, 1941.

Photograph by Capt. Harry Pidgeon

DRESSED IN BARK, THEY MEASURED THEIR WEALTH IN MATS INSTEAD OF MONEY

Before they were introduced to foreign money and imported cottons, the Samoans made the bark fabric, or tapa, for their clothes chiefly from the inner bark of the paper mulberry tree, sometimes from the breadfruit tree. After shaving the bark off the tree with stone knives, the women moistened the strips and pounded them with mallets until thin and pliable. The edges of the bark strips were joined and beaten together with arrowroot paste. When bleached and dried, the textile is painted (shown above) in geometrical designs with vegetable dyes, usually of sepia shades of brown and tan. Floor mats and sleeping mats, spread over the flooring of pebbles ironically called "feathers," were carefully woven of the leaves of the pandanus, and constituted the ancient yardstick for measuring local wealth. Matting rolled up or down between the posts outlining the round Samoan house makes its walls.

U. S. DEFENSE BASES SERIES

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